

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/811,969

Examiner

Allyson N. Trail

Applicant(s)

HOMEWOOD ET AL.

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 4/13/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 89,91-221 and 232-294.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 05-2005
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Amendment

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the Amendment filed April 13, 2006.

Remarks

2. Claims 89, 91-221, and 232-294 are currently pending. Claims 89, 107, 112, 113, 122, and 127 have been amended and claims 90 and 222-231 have been cancelled. In the previous Office action, claims 140-221 and 232-294 were indicated to be allowable over prior art. Claims 90, 112, 113, 122, and 127 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Currently the previously rejected independent claims have been amended to include the indicated allowable subject matter disclosed in the previous Office action. Therefore claims 89, 91-221, and 232-294 are allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 89, 91-221, and 232-294 are allowable over prior art.

The following is an examiner's for allowance: Prior art teaches a voting machine, which includes a display, a printer with a tamper resistant container, and a printed audit trail that is viewable by the voter, the above identified prior art of record, taken alone, or in combination with any other prior art, fails to teach or fairly suggest the specific features of claims 89, 91-221, and 232-294 of the present claimed invention. The voting machine in prior art fails to include the tamper resistant container including a transparent window used to allow the voter to view the printed audit trail and restrict

Art Unit: 2876

physical access to the printed audit trail. Prior art further fails to teach the voting machine comprising a controller that causes the display screen to be segmentally made transparent such that at least one portion of the printed audit trail that should be viewed by the voter can be viewed through the display screen. Additionally not taught is a controller that causes the display screen being opaque and causes the display screen to be transparent to allow the voter to view the printed audit trail on the print medium through the display screen and the causes the display screen to be opaque so that a next voter cannot view the print medium through the display screen. The voting machine includes an auto-load mechanism that loads/unloads canisters and wherein the printer includes at least one bi-directional drive motor that is controlled by the controller to randomize a printed position of the audit trail is also not taught in prior art. The above limitations are not disclosed in prior art and moreover, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to come to the claimed invention.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to *Allyson N. Trail* whose telephone number is (571) 272-2406. The examiner can normally be reached between the hours of 7:30AM to 4:00PM Monday thru Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee, can be reached on (571) 272-2398. The fax phone number for this Group is (571) 273-8300.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [allyson.trail@uspto.gov].

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Allyson N. Trail
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2876
June 3, 2006



**THIEN M. LE
PRIMARY EXAMINER**